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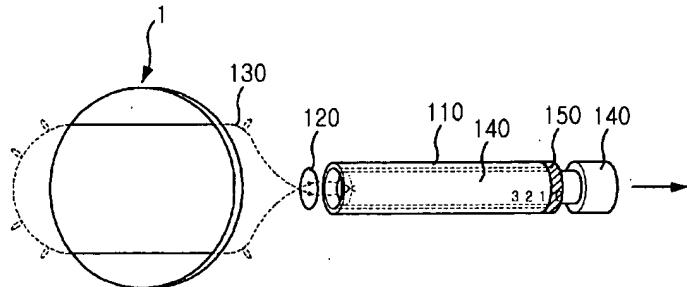
(71) Applicant and

(72) Inventor: LEE, EUI TAI [KR/KR]; #104-402, Lucky Apt., Daehyeon-dong, Seodaemun-gu, Seoul 120-757 (KR).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): KIM, Hee Chan [KR/KR]; #1-1302 Sindonga Apt., 44 Myeongil 2-dong, Gangdong-gu, Seoul 134-786 (KR). KIM, Hwa Ryoung [KR/KR]; #210-201, Hanjin Apt., Donam 2-dong, Seongbuk-gu, Seoul 136-753 (KR).

(54) Title: WOUND CLOSURE ASSISTING AND MAINTAINING APPARATUS



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pulling the loop suture in order to tighten the threaded loop suture; a housing member for housing the pulling member and making the loop suture tightened by transformation of a pulling force to a wound tightening force when pulling member pulls the loop suture out of skin; and a locking member for fixing a position of the pulling member to maintain the tightened status.

(57) Abstract: Provided is a wound closure assisting and maintaining apparatus that can be attached to a wide open wound of a patient and can stretch skin around the wound gradually to achieve the wound closure and maintain the wound closure during most critical postoperative period. The apparatus includes: a loop suture being threaded through skin; a tightening member for gathering both ends of the threaded loop suture at one point and for exerting a pressure of wound tightening force evenly on skin; a pulling member for